

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1 1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus that establishes services that utilize policy-
2 enabled resources in a communications network, comprising:

3 a first policy enforcement point (PEP) residing on a network element of the
4 communications network that performs identification of policy-enabled resources
5 that are available and allocates requested policy-enabled resources to services;

6 a first network resource controller (NRC) within a domain on the
7 communications network that makes requests, from available policy-enabled
8 resources, of any policy-enabled resources within a first domain required to
9 establish a particular service, the requests from the available policy-enabled
10 resources being separate from the identification of the policy-enabled resources; and

11 a first resource policy layer (RPL) that establishes the particular service and
12 provisions the policy-enabled resources allocated to the particular service, said first
13 resource policy layer including a first policy decision point (PDP), wherein:

14 | said first NRC acts as a trusted entity that initiates ~~an association a~~
15 | dynamic, trusted, policy association between said first PEP and said first
16 | PDP,

17 said first PDP provides said first PEP with policies upon establishment
18 of said dynamic, trusted, policy association between said first PEP and first
19 PDP, and

20 when said first NRC requires resources from a second domain outside
21 the first domain, said first NRC signals a request to a second NRC in said
22 second domain, which acts as the trusted entity that initiates ~~an~~ a dynamic,
23 trusted, policy association between a second PEP in said second domain and
24 said first PDP, said first PDP providing said second PEP with the policies
25 upon establishment of said dynamic, trusted, policy association between said
26 second PEP and said first PDP.

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1 2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said
2 first PEP comprises a plurality of virtual PEPs, each virtual PEP being associated
3 to a respective service.

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1 3-5. (Canceled)

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1 6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the
2 apparatus further comprises:

3 a second RPL associated with the second domain comprising the second PEP.

1 7. (Canceled)

1 8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein resource
2 capability information descriptors are used for resource discovery and policy
3 provisioning.

1 9. (Currently Amended) A method of establishing services that utilize policy-
2 enabled resources in a communications network, comprising:

3 identifying, at a first policy enforcement point (PEP), policy-enabled
4 resources within a first domain that are available and allocating requested policy-
5 enabled resources to services;

6 requesting, from available policy-enabled resources at a first network
7 resource controller (NRC) any policy-enabled resources required to establish a
8 particular service, the requesting step being separate from the identifying step;

9 establishing the particular service with a first resource policy layer (RPL);

10 and

11 provisioning, to the established service, the policy-enabled resources allocated
12 to the established service, said first resource policy layer including a first policy
13 decision point (PDP), wherein:

14 said first NRC acts as a trusted entity that initiates ~~an association~~ a
15 dynamic, trusted, policy association between said first PEP and said first PDP,

16 said first PDP provides said first PEP with policies upon establishment of
17 said dynamic, trusted, policy association between said first PEP and said first PDP,
18 and

19 when said first NRC requires resources from a second domain outside the
20 first domain, said first NRC signals a request to a second NRC in said second
21 domain, which acts as the trusted entity that initiates ~~an a~~ dynamic, trusted, policy
22 association between a second PEP in said second domain and said first PDP, said
23 first PDP providing said second PEP with the policies upon establishment of said
24 dynamic, trusted, policy association between said second PEP and said first PDP.

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1 10. (Canceled)

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1 11. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 9, wherein virtual
2 PEPs of the first PEP are provisioned to provide resource services.

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1 12. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 11, wherein the
2 virtual PEPs are provisioned to provide services in said second domain.

1 13. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 12, wherein said first
2 PEP and said second PEP are provisioned with the same service by said first PDP.

1 14-16. (Canceled)

1 17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the first
2 PEP and the second PEP are virtual PEPs created upon request for a particular
3 service by one of the first NRC and the second NRC.

1 18. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 9, wherein the first
2 PEP and the second PEP are virtual PEPs created upon request for a particular
3 service by one of the first NRC and the second NRC.

1 19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus that establishes services that utilize
2 policy-enabled resources in a communications network, comprising:

3 a first network resource controller (NRC) within a domain on the
4 communications network, said first NRC requesting, from available policy-enabled
5 resources, any policy-enabled resources required to establish a particular service;

6 a virtual first policy enforcement point (PEP) residing on a network element
7 of the communications network that is created upon requesting the particular

8 service, said virtual PEP identifying policy-enabled resources that are available and
9 allocating requested policy-enabled resources to the particular service;

10 a resource policy layer (RPL) that establishes the particular service and
11 includes a policy decision point (PDP), wherein the virtual PEP is provided with
12 information to contact the PDP of the RPL in order to provision the policy-enabled
13 resources allocated to the particular service based upon an aggregated view of
14 resources in the first NRC.

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20. (Currently Amended) A method of establishing services that utilize policy-
2 enabled resources in a communications network, comprising:

3 requesting, from available policy-enabled resources at a first network
4 resource controller (NRC), any policy-enabled resources required to establish a
5 particular service;

6 creating a virtual first policy enforcement point (PEP) upon requesting the
7 particular service;

8 identifying, at the virtual PEP, policy-enabled resources that are available
9 and allocating requested policy-enabled resources to the particular service;

10 providing the virtual PEP with information to contact a policy decision point
11 (PDP) of a resource policy layer (RPL);

12 establishing the particular service with a first resource policy layer (RPL);
13 and
14 provisioning, to the established service, the policy-enabled resources allocated
15 | to the particular service based upon an aggregated view of resources in the first
16 | NRC.